

OFFICE OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND
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Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) today told the American Legion Auxiliary that "true unification of the services" must be achieved, and described a bill he plans to introduce which calls for a comprehensive reorganization of the Department of Defense.

Thurmond's bill, which will probably be introduced early next week, calls for a centralization of civilian power in the Department of Defense with a corresponding reduction in the authority of the present Secretaries of Army, Navy and Air Force. On the same level with these three services, Thurmond proposes to establish a fourth service for research and development.

Thurmond said his bill will carry a provision to create the new position of Chief of Staff of the Armed Services, who would exercise the functions of the present Joint Chiefs of Staff and the additional function of commanding the combined forces.

Another provision of the bill would set up a procurement agency in the Department of Defense to procure all items of supply common to two or more of the four divisions of the department.

In his address, Thurmond also stressed the importance of National Guard and Reserve units in the military establishment.

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